

IOWA HISTORICAL RECORD

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No. 1.

IOWA AND MISSOURI BOUNDARY.

REPORT OF THE COMMISSIONER APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT
UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF AN ACT ENTITLED, "AN ACT TO
AUTHORIZE THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES
TO CAUSE THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY OF IOWA
TO BE ASCERTAINED AND MARKED,"
APPROVED JUNE 18, 1838.

BALTIMORE, MD., January 19th, 1839.



IR:—Having received at this place, on the 14th of August, last, through your office, the president's instructions to me as a commissioner on the part of the United States, under the act above cited, I promptly repaired to St. Louis, where I had previously informed the governors of Missouri and Iowa that I would receive their communications respecting the appointment of commissioners on the part of the state and territory, respectively. On my arrival at St. Louis, first of September, last, I received a letter from the acting governor of Iowa, requesting me to defer operations in order to allow more time for the selection of a commissioner on the part of the territory; also a letter from the governor of Missouri, suggesting the propriety of suspending operations until I should hear from the secretary of

state of the United States, to whom his excellency had written on the subject. His excellency stated that he had no authority to appoint a commissioner on the part of the state of Missouri, and desired the proposed survey to be postponed until after the meeting of the state legislature. In reply, I informed his excellency that I would confine my operations to the ascertainment of facts necessary to be known before the line could be properly established; and with this arrangement he expressed himself satisfied.

On the eighth of September, I received notice from his excellency, Robert Lucas, that he had appointed Doctor James Davis the commissioner on the part of the territory of Iowa.

The history of the boundary in question is briefly as follows: In the year 1808, the Osage Indians ceded to the United States all their claims to lands lying north of the Missouri without specifying bounds. In the year 1816, General William Rector, surveyor general of Illinois and Missouri, finding it necessary to have the limits of this cession established appointed John C. Sullivan the surveyor for that purpose, with the approbation of the commissioners of the United States, then having in charge the Indian relations in that quarter. During that year, Colonel Sullivan, accompanied by Pierre Chouteau, senior, one of the commissioners, met the Osages in council on the Missouri river; and thence he proceeded to run and mark the boundaries of their cession, in accordance with the views of the parties concerned. The line, as surveyed by Sullivan, is delineated on the accompanying map; and the field-notes are in the office of the surveyor general of St. Louis. It begins on the Missouri river, opposite the mouth of the Kansas river, and runs thence one hundred miles north; and thence due east, *according to the field-notes*, one hundred and fifty and a half miles, to the Des Moines river; but subsequent surveys have shown that the general course of this line is north of east, amounting at the east end to two and a half degrees; the error having arisen from want of proper care in making corrections for the variation of the needle.

By act of sixth of March, 1820, congress authorized the people of the territory of Missouri to form a constitution and state government; and, in describing the boundaries of the new state, the act requires that part of the western boundary north of the Missouri river "to correspond with the Indian boundary line." As there was no Indian boundary in that vicinity at that time, but the line run by Sullivan in 1816, that must be the line called for in the act.

In July, 1820, the convention of the people of Missouri formed a constitution for the state; and, in specifying the boundaries of the state, they copy literally the description given by the act of congress. Since that time, the state of Missouri has continued to exercise jurisdiction as far north as the line run by Sullivan in the year 1816; and that line has been uniformly treated as the true northern boundary of the state by the authorities of the United States, and by the public at large, without any question as to its propriety until after the purchase, in 1832, of other Indian lands lying north of said line. At the close of the Black Hawk war, in 1832, the Indian title was extinguished to a strip of land about fifty miles wide, lying along the Mississippi river, and adjoining the state of Missouri on the north. This tract was soon settled upon by emigrants, and the district was temporarily attached to the territory of Michigan. In the year 1836 the territory of Wisconsin was created, embracing a portion of the country west of the Mississippi, inclusive of the tract just named. During the last session of congress the territory of Iowa was stricken off from Wisconsin and made to embrace all the country north of Missouri and included between the Mississippi and Missouri rivers up to certain limits. Hence, the *northern* boundary line of the state of Missouri has become the "*southern* boundary line of the territory of Iowa;" and the determination of the latter consists in the determination of the former, as described in the act of congress of 6th March, 1820.

After the country along the Des Moines river was thrown open to settlement by the whites, certain rapids in that river

became more generally known than previously; and as the law designating the northern boundary of Missouri called for "a parallel of latitude passing through the rapids of the river Des Moines," it was supposed by many that these were the rapids intended. If that supposition were true, then a number of the settlers on the west side of the Des Moines river, and within the limits of the purchase of 1832, would be included within the state of Missouri; and the question was then raised to what government they belonged. The territories of Michigan, Wisconsin and Iowa, however, have successively claimed and exercised jurisdiction as far south as the old Indian boundary.

By the act of 7th June, 1836, congress extended the limits of the state of Missouri west to the Missouri river; and by the act of 18th June, last, provision was made for establishing the whole line between the state and the territory.

The information possessed by me, in regard to this line, on my arrival at St. Louis, is contained in my instructions from your office, signed by the acting commissioner, and dated August 10, 1838. A copy, marked K, is herewith transmitted; and also a copy of its accompanying document, marked D, being the opinion of the solicitor of the general land office on the points of law involved in the case. At the office of the surveyor general at St. Louis, I was furnished with a map and field notes of a survey of the northern boundary of the state of Missouri, made in the year 1837, by Joseph C. Brown, Esq., under the direction of three commissioners appointed by the authority of that state. This line will be designated as "Brown's line," and distinctly laid down on the accompanying map. Other information was obtained at St. Louis, but reference is more particularly made to the letter of the honorable John Scott, marked E, and that of General William Milburn, marked F.

In the second section of the act of 6th March, 1820, the western boundary of Missouri is described as a "meridian line passing through the middle of the mouth of Kansas river,

where the same empties into the Missouri river; thence from the point aforesaid north, along the said meridian line, to the intersection of the parallel of latitude which passes through the *rapids of the river Des Moines*, making the said line to correspond with the Indian boundary line;" and the northern boundary is described as running "thence east from the point of intersection last aforesaid, along the said parallel of latitude, to the middle of the channel of the main fork of the river Des Moines, to the mouth of the same, where it empties into the Mississippi river."

Under that phrase, in this description, which requires a part of the western boundary "to correspond with the Indian boundary line," the solicitor of the general land office (see paper marked D), has given it as his opinion, that the true northern boundary of the state is the parallel of latitude passing through the old northwest corner of the Indian boundary. Although the argument of the solicitor is ingenious and plausible, yet it was not altogether conclusive: for the call for the northern boundary is "the parallel of latitude which passes through the rapids of the river Des Moines;" and if we assume the old northwest corner to be the point through which the said parallel must run it *may* not cut "the rapids of the river Des Moines" at all; and, hence, the law would be found to contain incompatible calls. But it is a good rule in law, that a statute should be so construed, if possible, that one part may not contradict or be incompatible with any other part, and in order to elucidate this point, a preliminary survey became necessary.

If we suppose the position assumed by the solicitor to be abandoned, and the call for "rapids of the river Des Moines" to be paramount then the question arises, where are those rapids? The commissioners appointed by the state of Missouri to run the line, assumed the rapids in question to be the rapids in the Des Moines river, about 63 miles above its mouth; whilst others contend that the rapids contemplated in the law are rapids in the Mississippi river, near the mouth of the river Des Moines.

Finding that some preliminary surveys would be required before any conclusive construction could be placed upon the law, and being restrained from an actual demarcation of the line by the unexpected position of the executive of the state of Missouri, I determined to make a full examination of all the localities concerned, and to make to you a report of all the facts and circumstances of the case in time for it to be laid before congress at its present session. Accordingly, after much delay in procuring instruments and equipage, I left St. Louis with my party, on the 21st September, last.

Having ascertained the latitude of the head of the Des Moines rapids in the Mississippi river, and of the point where Sullivan's line strikes the Des Moines river, I met, by appointment, at the town of Van Buren, in the great bend of the Des Moines river, Dr. James Davis, the commissioner on the part of the territory of Iowa. He approved of the manner in which I proposed to conduct the examinations, and joined in my operations. As I had explored the Des Moines river some years before, and was familiar with its islands and rapids, Dr. Davis was contented with my representations in that respect, and did not deem it necessary to make any further exploration of that river. It was agreed between us, that wherever the Des Moines river forms the division between the state of Missouri and territory of Iowa, all the islands in said river should belong to the territory, except the large island about three miles below the town of St. Francisville, which should belong to the state of Missouri, as the channel on the side next to that state is dry except at times of high water.

The rapids at the Great Bend are those assumed by the commissioners of Missouri as "the rapids of the river Des Moines," and from which Brown's line is run west to the Missouri river. Believing that congress *might* declare that to be the true point of beginning, I followed Brown's line westward, for the purpose of testing its accuracy by astronomic observations; intending to recommend its adoption, if found to be accurate, as the definite line, in case that congress should

declare its beginning point to be the true one. By this course I hoped to save both time and expense in settling the disputed boundary. Much sickness, however, in my party and the unusually early beginning of rigorous winter, prevented me from accomplishing a part of my projected operations. I found that my time would not allow me to test Brown's line throughout; and I also failed in getting the latitude of the old northwest corner of the Indian boundary, after devoting four weeks to that object alone.

The head or most northern point of the Des Moines rapids as seen from the western shore of the Mississippi river, is at the southeast corner of the square of old Fort Des Moines, and its altitude is $40^{\circ} 35' 43''$ N. Hence the difference of latitude of these two points is $4' 50''$, equal to five miles, 2,919 feet. Unfortunately, we have not the precise latitude of the old northwest corner; but, from the results of recent surveys made on that line, and from data derived from Mr. Brown's survey, I have calculated that it is south of the point where Sullivan's line strikes the Des Moines river, by four miles 27 feet. By subtracting this from the five miles 2,919 feet, we have one mile 2,892 feet for the distance that the old northwest corner is north of the head of the Des Moines rapids. This result is likely very near the truth, but, from want of precise data, I cannot give it as the basis of any other conclusion.

In ascending the Des Moines river from its mouth, several shallow places with swift currents are found below the "Great Bend;" but there is no obstruction of magnitude sufficient to deserve, or to obtain among the neighboring inhabitants, the appellation of "rapids," below those at the place just named, where there is, at low water, a fall of one or two feet in a distance of about eighty yards, and, in part of the stream, the water falls perpendicularly about ten or twelve inches. It is said, however, that when the river rises as much as three feet above low water mark, these rapids entirely disappear, and that the river assumes an uniform flow. There are other rapids above the Great Bend, particularly those near the

Indian village lately known as Appanoose's, and now as Keokuk's, which are about nineteen miles north of those at the Great Bend, and which they much resemble. There are, also, a series of much greater rapids than either of those already named above the mouth of the Cedar fork of the Des Moines river, and about sixty miles north of the old Indian boundary line.

The latitude of the center of the rapids at the Great Bend was taken by Mr. Brown, and is reported by him at $40^{\circ} 44' 6''$ N. By a series of observations, I determined it to be $40^{\circ} 44' 5.16''$ N., the point from which my observations were taken being about 20 feet south of that used by Mr. Brown. The difference of latitude between the eastern terminations of Sullivan's and Brown's line is, therefore, $8' 22.16''$, or nine miles 3,248 feet; and if to this be added four miles 27 feet, we shall have 13 miles 3,275 feet, as the distance between the two lines at the old northwest corner, and thence to the Missouri river. From these data, and others deduced from the accompanying map, the area of the tract contained between Brown's and Sullivan's lines is estimated at 2,616 square miles, about one-half of which, lying at the eastern and western extremities, may be deemed excellent agricultural lands; and intermediate portions being of inferior quality. The whole of this tract is still possessed by various Indian tribes, except a small portion next to the Des Moines river, which is attached to Van Buren county, Iowa Territory, and is supposed to contain about 1,500 inhabitants.

An examination of the preceding matter with the accompanying map, will show that there are four lines, any one of which may be taken as that intended by the act of 6th March, 1820:

1. The old Indian boundary, or Sullivan's line, extended west to the Missouri river.
2. The parallel of latitude passing through the old northwest corner of the Indian boundary.

3. The parallel of latitude passing through the Des Moines rapids in the Mississippi river.

4. The parallel of latitude passing through the rapids in the Des Moines river at the Great Bend.

Of line No. 1.—By reference to the annexed letter (marked G), of General William Clark, former governor of the territory of Missouri, and late superintendent of Indian affairs at St. Louis, to the commissioner of Indian affairs, dated January 13, 1838, it will be seen that many treaties have been formed with various Indian tribes, in which the old Indian boundary is called for as the northern boundary of the state of Missouri. In the treaties made with the Sacs and Foxes, and with the Iowas, at Washington City, in the year 1824, only four years after the formation of the state of Missouri (which treaties were made expressly for the purpose of extinguishing the claims of said tribes to all lands within that state), the northwest corner of the old Indian boundary, or the point 100 miles north of the mouth of the Kansas river, is expressly called for as “the northwest corner of the state of Missouri.” These treaties have been ratified by the senate and appropriations have been made by congress to carry them into effect, without any objection to their phraseology by the representatives of Missouri. Under these treaties made by Major General Scott with the Sacs and Foxes in 1832, lands have been surveyed, and municipal divisions established, with reference to the old Indian boundary, as the true northern boundary of the state; and in like manner is the same line marked in all the maps in common use in the country. The only known exception to this uniform manner of considering that line, from the year 1820 down to 1833, is that of the surveyor general’s office at St. Louis, where the line run by Sullivan has been reported upon the surveys of the public lands as the “Indian boundary,” and not as the state line. Yet, with all this uniformity of action, this line does not fulfill the requirements of the law, as it is an oblique line; whereas, the law calls for “a parallel of latitude,” without reference to the

Indian boundary on the north. Moreover, this line does not pass through any point that could properly be termed "the rapids of the river Des Moines," as required by the law. It cannot, therefore, be deemed the *legal* boundary of the state of Missouri; although its long use as such, and the various interests which have grown up under that use, may render it proper to establish it as such by future legislation.

Of line No. 2.—For the full discussion of the legal claims of this line to preference, I refer you to the opinion of the solicitor of the general land office, already cited. The great objection to this line is, that it may not pass through any rapids at all, and thus not fulfill one of the calls in the law; and this is probably the case, as shown heretofore. Yet, an actual survey might show a different result; in which case, the second and third lines would become identical. With all due deference to the opinion of the solicitor, I believe that it is only in this latter case that the second line can have any just claim to preference, under a strict construction of the law; the call for "the rapids of the river Des Moines" being paramount in my opinion, to the call for correspondence between the state line and the old Indian boundary.

Of line No. 3.—In case that neither of the two first lines should be deemed the true one, the question of the boundary would be reduced to the determination of what is meant by the phrase, "the rapids of the river Des Moines." The Des Moines rapids in the Mississippi river, beginning about three miles above the mouth of the Des Moines river, and extending about fourteen miles up the river, have been noted as a great obstruction to its navigation ever since the river has been explored. They are named from their vicinity to the mouth of the Des Moines river, as the rapids in the Mississippi, about the same distance above the mouth of Rock river, are called "Rock river rapids." When the French first settled the valley of the Mississippi, they named the one "Les rapides de la riviere Des Moines," and the other "Les rapides de la riviere de la Roche." When the Americans took possession of the coun-

try, they generally retained the French names of places, merely translating them into English. In formal documents, especially, the names of places were usually translated literally; and hence, the name "*Les rapides de la riviere Des Moines*," became "the rapids of the river Des Moines;" the precise words used in the act of congress in designating the northern boundary of Missouri. In confirmation of this account of these names, I refer you to the annexed extract (marked H), from the records in the office of the United States recorder of land titles at St. Louis, and to reports made by Messrs. Clayton and Huntsman to the senate and house of representatives, respectively, in the year 1836, on the claim of the heirs of Thomas F. Reddick, to a certain tract of land. From these papers it appears that, in the year 1799, permission was granted to Louis Honore "to settle at the head of the rapids of the river Des Moines," and that grant of land was made to him at that place; conditioned upon actual settlement and occupation. Under this grant he settled at the head of the "*Des Moines rapids*," as they are now called; and under this grant and settlement the heirs of Reddick claim the tract at the head of the Des Moines rapids, as the legal representatives of Honore. The reports of both Messrs. Clayton and Huntsman are favorable to the claim; implying that, in the opinion of those gentlemen, and of the committees whom they represent, "the rapids of the river Des Moines," and "the Des Moines rapids," are the same thing. I also refer you to the letter of Peter Chouteau, Jr. (marked I), for the name by which the Des Moines rapids have ever been known by the early French settlers and their descendents. It is, indeed, notorious that the name by which these rapids have ever been known among the French is "*Les rapides de la riviere Des Moines*," and that the translated name has gradually assumed the more familiar English form of "*Des Moines rapids*." And in the French translations of the constitution of Missouri, sanctioned by the convention, the phrase "the rapids of the river Des Moines" is rendered "*Les rapides de la*

riviere Des Moines"—the precise phrase used habitually by the French inhabitants of the country to mean the Des Moines rapids in the Mississippi. Were there any other rapids at that time generally known by that name? I answer, no, for, as has been already stated, there are various rapids in the Des Moines river of similar character, and they are, at this day even, distinguished from each other among the inhabitants of the country by some additional qualifications, such as "the rapids at the Great Bend," and "the rapids at the Appanoose's village," etc. When the commissioners of the state of Missouri went to run their line (only eighteen months since), they had to explore the river before they could determine which of its rapids should be selected; and there is still a great diversity of opinion among those claiming to run to rapids in the Des Moines, as to which rapids were intended by congress. But the use of the definite article "*the* rapids," etc., seems to imply some rapids well known and distinguished by that name; which is evidently not the case in regard to any rapids in the Des Moines. It is proper to observe, also, that the phrase used is "the rapids *of* the river Des Moines," and not the rapids *in* the river Des Moines; and that it is as applicable to rapids in the one river as in the other. The rapids in the Mississippi were so much more notorious at the time of the formation of the state constitution of Missouri, that many of the members of the convention were not aware that there were rapids in the Des Moines river at all, and of course, have always believed the Des Moines rapids to be those intended by congress. Among the members of the convention who have thus expressed themselves, may be mentioned, his excellency Henry Dodge, Captain Nathan Boone, United States dragoons, and Judge Emmons, of St. Charles county, Missouri. Yet, there are others who appear to have had a different view of the matter at that time.

Of line No. 4.—The fourth line, or that passing through the rapids in the Des Moines river at the Great Bend, is understood to be the line claimed by the state of Missouri;

and if any rapids in the Des Moines ought to be regarded as the governing point, I believe that these should be taken, as being the best known on account of their proximity to the mouth and to the old boundary. In regard to the claims of this, the fourth line, I can say nothing more favorable than to refer you to the letter of the honorable John Scott, already cited, in reply to my application for information on the subject. Mr. Scott was the delegate from the territory of Missouri at the time of the creation of the state; he drew the bill which became a law on the sixth of March, 1820, specifying the limits of the state, and was afterwards a member of the convention of Missouri which adopted those limits. I also refer you again to the letter of General William Milburn, chief clerk of the surveyor's general office at St. Louis. The character of these gentlemen is too well known to need any comment; and they are so positive and so circumstantial in their statements of what was the impression of themselves and others on the point in question, that it is impossible to doubt their accuracy. Hence it is manifest that there was discrepancy of opinion among those most directly concerned, from the beginning; and hence, also, the difficulty of arriving at the intention of congress in the use of the words "the rapids of the river Des Moines."

In view of all the facts and circumstances of the case, I feel constrained to say—

1. That the old Indian boundary, or line No. 1, extended west to the Missouri river, is the equitable and proper northern boundary of the state of Missouri; but that the terms of the law do not allow the commissioner to adopt that line.

2. That the parallel of latitude passing through the old northwest corner of the Indian boundary, or line No. 2, is neither legally nor equitably the northern boundary of Missouri.

3. That lines Nos. 3 and 4, or the parallels of latitude passing through the respective rapids, *both* fulfill the requirements of the law. I am not, however, prepared to say which of these lines should have the preference.

In accordance with your request that I should recommend such further action as I might deem necessary in the premises, I have the honor, respectfully, to suggest that congress, during the present session, be requested to declare, by resolution or otherwise, which of the several lines here presented, shall be deemed the southern boundary of the territory of Iowa. The act of 13th June, 1838, requires that the survey of the line shall be approved by congress before it be deemed definitive; and it might very probably happen that the line surveyed under the direction of the commissioner might not be approved by congress. With the information now before them, congress can as well decide where the line should be, before the actual survey, as afterwards.

Should congress be of the opinion that the *fourth line*, or that passing through the rapids in the Des Moines river, is the true boundary, I would respectfully recommend the definitive adoption of the line already run through that point by the authority of the state of Missouri. It was carefully surveyed and marked by Mr. Joseph C. Brown, of St. Louis, a gentleman in every way qualified to perform the duty.

Should congress, however, deem it proper to adopt the old Indian boundary, or line No. 1, as the true boundary of the territory, it is probable that the state of Missouri would acquiesce; as that has generally been deemed her true boundary, and consequently would not derange any of her municipal divisions, or deprive her of any territory over which she has heretofore exercised jurisdiction; and as the "Platte district," a large and very valuable section of country, was added to the state by congress in 1836, doubtless under the impression that the northern boundary of the state was the old Indian boundary, as represented upon all the maps in use in the country,

But should either of the lines No. 2 and No. 3 be adopted, as it would take from the state of Missouri a portion of territory over which she has long exercised jurisdiction, much ill-feeling would be engendered, and tedious litigation might ensue.

Should congress not adopt definitively the line surveyed by Mr. Brown, an appropriation will be necessary to carry on the survey during the next season. Estimates, according to the several cases, will be forwarded in a few days.

Very respectfully,

ALBERT MILLER LEA,

Commissioner, etc., for the U. S.

JAMES WHITCOMB, ESQ.,

Commissioner of the General Land Office.

KEOKUK.



OT of the city, but of the old chieftain of the name, do we propose to present an incident in connection with the early history of our state.

Soon after the approval of the Organic act, creating the territory of Iowa in June, 1838, President Van Buren appointed Robert Lucas, of Ohio, who had served two terms as its executive officer and had presided over the national convention at Baltimore (the first Democratic national convention held), that nominated Van Buren for the presidency, to be its first governor. By virtue of his office, he was also "Superintendent of Indian affairs" within the newly created territory.

Keokuk, the head chief of the confederated tribes of the Sac and Fox Indians, who had at the close of the Blackhawk war, in 1832, ceded the tract styled the "Blackhawk purchase," and comprising all of the then settled portion of the territory of Iowa, signified through their agent, General Street, his desire to formally visit the son of their great father, the governor. At that time the "home of the braves" was located where Agency City now stands, on the Des Moines river, a few miles above the present thriving city of Ottumwa, then the "hunting grounds" of the Indians, and far removed from the settlements few and far between down the river Des Moines and up the

Mississippi. Accordingly, it was arranged that at an early day after the legislative (first), assembly adjourned the proposed visit of state should take place. Well do we remember the time and place—a pleasant day (26), in March, 1839, when word came to the executive office, that the “Indians were coming,” not “through the rye,” nor the streets of the embryo city, Iowa’s first capital—Burlington—but as of yore, along the Indian path that had long led them from the prairies to Flint Hills, as they called the place.

Governor Lucas, with other grand dignitaries of the territory and their friends, including the representative of the press, editor of the Territorial *Gazette*, repaired to the parlor of the Burlington hotel kept by mine host, L. J. Lockwood, of early fame, where all were appropriately seated. Our youthful curiosity led us to the window where we could peep out and see the chief and his twelve braves as they came marching along, single file, following their great leader. Keokuk was as fine a specimen of the physical man as we ever saw, tall, large and active; he trod the earth more like the “monarch of all he surveyed” than one dependent, as he was, upon the bounty of the government, and owing his office to his great father, General Jackson, than whom no chief ever received his baton of authority from a greater man. The only ornament he wore, was a necklace of bear’s claws, which he ever wore, and in which costume his pictures have ever been taken. The only badge of authority a trident of hickory (well selected and significant). This reached even above his tall form and in his right hand he held it firmly and strode triumphantly, followed by his braves, into the room prepared for them, where all, following their leader, were soon seated *upon the floor*. When all were quiet the governor rose, and with and facing him, Keokuk, who was introduced by the agent. His Indians also rose and remained standing when Keokuk delivered the following “talk,” as he called it, or speech, or address. We have recently, in rummaging among some old papers for autograph letters of our early territorial officers, come across this

speech, taken down by us at the time in short-hand (for at that time we were an adept in the business, then so little and now so generally practiced).

We transcribed it in a fair hand, which even at this late day *we* have no difficulty in reading. We do not recollect whether we furnished it to the printer or not, and cannot learn, as some vandal has burned or stolen our file of the *Gazette*, second year, and *Hawkeye*, first year, from the shelves where we had long ago *deposited* the volumes, with many others of later years. The finder, upon its return, shall be suitably rewarded.

“The object of this visit,” said Keokuk to the governor, “is to see the governor. I have long heard of him (addressing him in the third person), have never seen him, but wish to see him, see how he looks, and to welcome him as the representative of our great father far away to his children in this land, near where the sun sets. It was all ours once, the home of the red man, but the Great Spirit hid his face, some of our people were bad and our great father in the big home sent his pale faces and it is theirs now. I want to talk with the governor about the payment of our money, how it is to be paid. We have heard from our agent that it is to be paid to the heads of families — we do not want it done in this way. [It had formerly been paid in gross to the head chief — and the ‘old man eloquent’ did not want to lose his hold upon the shiny gold.] I have some of my braves with me, and they want all the money paid to the chiefs as before, and not scattered like the fallen leaves of the trees in autumn. My braves want the old way continued as it has been. The sun gives more light than all the little stars. When paid in the usual way there is no difference between the rich and the poor, as there will be in the new way of payment.

“Chouteau, at St. Louis, has long been the trader with our nation. He gives us no account of the things we get of him, nor the amount; nor do we ever know how our account stands with him. We want a man of books (book-keeper), appointed

to keep accounts for us; to keep all things right. This is what I came for, to see the great governor and tell him our wants, and have him ask the great father of the big house to remove the Missourians and the Pottawattamies, who have settled upon our lands on the Des Moines and disturb my people in the hunting grounds our Great Spirit gave us long ago. The governor is a big man and he can do my people good, like the rains which make the grass grow. This is all I have to say." And when said, he, as all speakers should, sat down.

We do not find the sheet containing the reply of Gov. Lucas.

Some months later the governor notified Keokuk that he would visit him at his hunting grounds and see him and his people, and right all wrongs.

We well remember the great Oregon emigration from eastern Iowa in 1843, and that of California in 1849, but they were small affairs in their day to the hurry, bustle and excitement attending the preparations for the governor and suite to make *that* memorable visit to the Indian village "so near, yet far away." How we got wagons with sail-cloth covers, borrowed tents, loaded up cook-stoves and flour, and bacon — no nic-nacs in those days — and started on our winding way, as if journeying to the unknown land of a "dark continent." Well, the party lived through it, survived, although but one or two are now left to tell the tale of wonder upon wonders.

T. S. PARVIN.

Iowa City, October 15th, 1885.

STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA.



HIS institution claims recognition as a factor in the development of the resources of the state.

Since 1800, provision has been made in the organic act for the reservation of two townships, or more, for *University* purposes within the limits of each state admitted to the union, except Maine, Texas and West Virginia. Four territories, New Mexico, Utah, Washington and Dakota, have also been thus favored in advance of their admission as states. The celebrated ordinance of 1787 contains in a single sentence the sentiment underlying this reservation: "Religion, morality and knowledge, being necessary to good government and the happiness of mankind, schools, and the means of education, shall be forever encouraged."

In pursuance of this purpose the United States congress early set apart one thirty-sixth part of the public domain for support of common schools. Where lands were offered for sale, as at first, by contract for large tracts, special reservation of land for university purposes was made a requirement. But to ensure this reservation, since 1800, special provision is embodied in the organic act, as stated above.

Iowa thus; in 1846, came into possession of 46,080 acres of land to be selected by state authority from any unsold lands and used as the state might see fit, for the support of a University. The state authorities first appraised the selected lands at \$5 per acre and afterwards at \$10 per acre, but finally sold nearly all the lands at less than \$4 per acre upon an average. The average of the first 31,400 acres sold was \$3.50 per acre. Of the entire 46,080 acres, 2,060 acres remain unsold.

SALINE LANDS.

Congress granted to Iowa, 46,100 acres of saline lands lying within the state. After selling the most of these lands at a low rate, the state finally granted to the University about

4,600 acres and some saline land contracts which proved of little value to the University fund. Out of the avails of the more than 40,000 acres sold by the state an appropriation of \$10,000 was made at one time to aid in the erection of a building for University purposes. Of the saline lands there remain unsold 3,167 acres. One donation of 500 acres leaves the University in possession of 5,727 acres of land from all sources

The University productive fund from land sales is \$201,266.⁷⁴ less than half of what it would have been, had the lands been retained until they had reached the appraised value of \$10 per acre.

The state has been called on frequently for means wherewith to sustain her University. She has responded quite liberally. At the present writing the income from land fund is about \$16,000 per year, and the special endowment adds to this the sum of \$28,000 per year. The only sure income, independent of tuitions, is \$44,000 per year. For the past thirty-nine years since the admission of the state the average expenditure has been a little more than \$28,000 a year; but since the full organization of the several departments it has been a little more than \$54,000 a year. One department has received for its support but a trifle more than its tuition fees for four years past. Another department just organized accepts for the present only fees of students.

Were all departments properly sustained as they should be from University funds the expenditure would be not less than \$65,000 a year.

This may appear to be a large sum of money for current expenses, but it is less than that paid by any state maintaining a reputable university, even less per pupil enrolled than is paid by Minnesota, Nebraska, Wisconsin or Michigan. Iowa is better able to support her University generously than the other states named. She has no state debt. Her rate of municipal indebtedness is relatively very low, and personal debt is comparatively light.

A few facts drawn from the recently published catalogue of alumni will prove the worthiness of the University to receive a liberal endowment:

Whole number of graduates,	-	-	-	-	2327
Still surviving,	-	-	-	-	2225
Married women,	-	-	-	152	
Occupation unknown,	-	-	-	185—337	
Leaving to be accounted for,	-	-	-	-	1888
Teachers (50 in prominent positions in Iowa and elsewhere),	-	-	-	-	138
Attorneys (13 on the bench),	-	-	-	-	882
Physicians (9 professors),	-	-	-	-	405
Clergymen,	-	-	-	-	43
Journalists,	-	-	-	-	25
Civil Engineers,	-	-	-	-	10
State and U. S. Officers,	-	-	-	-	9
Stenographers,	-	-	-	-	9
Railway service,	-	-	-	-	5
Business of all kinds,	-	-	-	-	362
					1888

It is doubtful whether any other institution can show so good a record for the first twenty-five years of its existence.

In number of collegiate students, in 1882, the last year in which a comparative table was published, of more than 360 colleges and universities, the State University of Iowa stands *twelfth*. Her graduates are found in thirty-five states and territories from Maine to Texas, and from Georgia to Washington territory.

Kansas, some years since, called one to the State Superintendency of public instruction. Another holds the same position in Connecticut. Colorado has placed one upon her supreme bench. Nebraska could find no better superintendent for her Deaf Mute School than a University graduate. Several colleges and professional schools in this state and elsewhere find well fitted professors among the alumni of the

University. The institution is calling to her service graduates and three are now filling professorial chairs. Two others are upon her Board of Regents.

The services of several graduates have been found indispensable in the Suveyor-General's offices of Wyoming and Montana.

The Asylum for the Insane has never had better service in assistance to its superintendent than that rendered by a lady graduate.

The thought of thousands of readers is quickened daily by the work of graduates upon the editorial staff of prominent newspapers at home and abroad.

Clergymen, prominent in various denominations — missionaries in distant lands — have honored their alma mater. The legislatures of several states and territories have recognized the influence of members who bear University diplomas, and congress has enrolled more than one among her younger members. Many others in active life, not graduates, have derived not a little of their preparation in University halls.

No other institution of like character has graduated so large a proportion of her enrollment, which shows an excellent persistence in study.

The average Collegiate enrollment for twenty years past has been 163.

Graduates for same time, average, 23.

Since the Collegiate course is four years, the highest possible could not exceed 41.

It appears, therefore, that fifty-six per cent of all who are enrolled in the Collegiate Department complete the course and graduate.

Fifteen per cent of the students enrolled during the years 1884-5 came from other states and territories.

More than ninety of the ninety-nine counties were represented in all the departments of the University—seventy-three in the Collegiate alone.

Five years have passed since the entire abandonment of any preparatory work in the University. The terms of admission to all departments have been materially advanced, and yet there has been steady growth in collegiate work. Taking five years as a unit of comparison, we find —

Average Collegiate enrollment for 1865-6 to 1869-70, 105

Average Collegiate enrollment for 1870-1 to 1874-5, 144

Average Collegiate enrollment for 1875-6 to 1879-80, 197

Average Collegiate enrollment for 1880-1 to 1884-5, 242

In erection of buildings, \$136,000 has been expended from avails of state appropriations. So far as our buildings are concerned, they are worth more than they have cost. The last erected is specially well adapted to its purposes. The work thus far done is but the beginning of good work.

The University has been brought into close alliance with the public school interests of the state. An increasingly large proportion of her graduates become teachers, so that her influence is felt throughout the entire system of common schools.

J. L. PICKARD.

RECOLLECTIONS OF THE PAST.

N. LEVERING, LOS ANGELES, CAL.

TIME will never efface from my memory my first view of the Iowa river and its beautiful and fertile valley. It was a pleasant September day, the sun nearing the western horizon, without a murky cloud to obstruct its flood of golden light that streamed back over the broad and swelling prairies, clothing them with a mantle of shining beauty, as we approached the summit of a commanding bluff, three or four miles east of Marengo, overlooking the Iowa river valley stretching east and west as far as the eye could scan. Far in the distant west, issuing from amid rugged

bluffs that seemed to crowd upon the murmuring waters and say, "thus far and no farther," could be dimly seen the meandering form of the Iowa river, which widened as it approached through the lofty cottonwoods and bowing willows that fringed its banks as if to hide the limped water, pregnant with sportive fish, as it rushed onward to the bosom of the father of waters.

Quite discernible was the embryo city of Marengo, of not a dozen houses nestled close to the river and under the shadow of the bluff, while here and there the hardy pioneer's cabin dotted the lovely vale. The tinkling bell greeted the ear as lowing herds nipped the verdure of the plain; on the road that meandered through the waving grass, was the chucking wagon of the emigrant with an escort of ruddy children and stock, moving with slow but steady tramp westward. This panoramic view was grand and imposing; with a reverential feeling of delight, I turned to my clerical friend and repeated:

"Could I but climb where Moses stood,
And view the landscape o'er, etc."

We soon pulled up at Marengo, at the hospitable mansion of Groff, the lawyer and poet. It being Saturday, we were generously tendered the hospitalities of our kind host and hostess until Monday. There being no place in the town to hold services, my friend (Nate) went about two miles north of the town, to what was then known as Wilson's school house, and preached to a small but attentive audience of the settlers.

Monday morning, early, found us on our way northward to Toledo, the county seat of Tama county. The county was so named to perpetuate the name of an Indian chief, of whom it is said he possessed many virtues. Near the close of the day we arrived at the house of J. C. Vermilye, then the county judge of Tama county. The house was one and a half story log, and stood on the edge of the timber, on an elevation overlooking the Iowa river bottom, a portion of which the judge had reduced to cultivation. We were here put upon our road

to Toledo, about one mile distant, where we soon arrived. It had been but a few months prior that Toledo had been honored as the county town, and was almost houseless. A court house was partly constructed; there was one store of general merchandise owned by John Hyerung; there were two dwellings, one of which was built and owned by Mr. Wadley, and was receiving the finishing touch. We applied to Mr. Wadley for lodging for the night, who smiled and said he could lodge us under his work bench on the shavings. At this Brother Nate's benign countenance was gradually being over-shadowed by a cloud of despair, and looked as if he were longing for the flesh pots of Egypt, and doubtless his vision rested on many a downy couch in the Sucker state, and felt that he would like to be succored from his present dilemma. He at once began energetically to cast about for more comfortable quarters, and soon learned that Franklin Davis near by had a better thing in store for the weary. Soon we were knocking at the door, and were cordially received and most hospitably entertained. Brother Nate's usual cheerfulness returned, and when his avoirdupois sank down that evening in a lofty, snowy feather bed, he chuckled to think what a happy escape he made from the bed of curly wood.

Early the following morning we were rolling northward over a cheerless undulating prairie for Wolf creek, in the northern portion of the county, about twenty miles from Toledo. Fifteen miles brought us to Baker's Grove, which took its name from the family that then resided there. Five miles farther landed us at the house of Giles Taylor, on Wolf creek. Here was a flourishing little settlement of ten or a dozen families settled along on either side of the creek. N. L. Osborn informed me that he built the first house in that settlement, which he soon after sold to Giles Taylor, who still resides on a portion of the same land, which is now a portion of the town of Traer. Among the early settlers now remembered was Ira Taylor (brother of Giles), a man of precious memory on account of his many virtues, who deceased a few

months since at the ripe age of 85; the Woods, Connells, Van Cleat, Shimer, Hitchner, and Snow. Brother Nate, after a few days' recuperation to himself and jaded horse, as before stated, turned his face toward the Sucker state, and hied himself back to succor souls from his satanic majesty's domain, beyond the Mississippi. Before leaving he intimated the low condition of his finances. I informed him of the depleted condition of my own, but made an equal division, leaving me \$4.00 as a basis for future business, which I looked forward to with a hope of success.

At the present day but little is known of the hardship and privation of the early settlers. Mrs. Taylor informed me that the first winter she spent in her house, a one story hewed log, about 12 x 16, there were twenty-five persons occupied the cabin. At night the loft above and the floor below were overspread with downy couches, upon which were stretched the weary frames of the hardy settlers, who sought "Nature's sweet restorer, balmy sleep." This was not an unusual occurrence when new-comers were erecting houses and preparing homes for their families.

I soon resolved to settle down to business, and returned to Toledo, where I secured lodging in the family of Peter McRoberts, east of the town, about a half mile. Houses began now to spring up around the public square, as that was the business center. I soon procured a little plank house about 12 x 16 on the east side of the square for an office. During the winter my office was variously utilized aside from law and real estate; its doors were open to itinerants of the various denominations, as well as all other meetings, for the public good.

A sign was an important requisite to let the public know my business and where to find me. There being no one in the country who flourished the artistic brush, I concluded not to wait until one would turn up, but, like Lark and the farmer, I resolved to do it myself. A board smoothly dressed was soon procured, a little lamp-black and goose-quill, the

feather serving for a brush, and without the skill of a West or a Sully, bold letters soon supplied the want, with the consoling reflection to the artist that there were many persons in New York and London would never see it. Bed room was rather scarce at my boarding house; to economise, and for my own convenience I slept at my office. There being no furniture to be obtained nearer than Iowa City, settlers were compelled to use home-made and homely furniture until better could be obtained. Two canvass covered trunks, end to end, served the purpose of a bed-stead; but, like one of the old German emperor's beds, so narrow that when he turned he turned out, I soon learned, by practical experience, the difference in falling into sleep and falling when asleep. But, by the help of Dr. T. L. Baldy, a few poles and an augur, the difficulty was obviated, and our corporal rested safely in the arms of Morpheus wrapped in oblivion, and revelled in the dreamy land without fear of being flooded at every turn.

Early in the fall of 1854, S. Mitchell erected a double log, one story house on the south side of the square for a hotel and boarding house, and which was known as the "Hackberry," as it was mostly built of hackberry timber. Old Hackberry filled a great want, and was soon filled with boarders and guests.

The first county officials, as far as I now remember, were: J. C. Vermilye, county judge; David D. Applegate, clerk of the court; Jefferson Staley, treasurer and recorder; Mr. Garner, sheriff; Jones Woods, surveyor. Governor Hempsted appointed the writer notary public, which was the first made in the county.

Judge Vermilye's house was the court house and county official headquarters. The first district court held in the county was held at Judge Vermilye's house, or rather in his melon patch, where judge, jury, attorneys, and all court officials grew melodious, and discussed harmoniously the right of invasion upon that occasion.

The first seal of the county was rather an unique affair. It consisted of the die alone, which was laid upon the paper and

struck with a hammer, mallet, or something else. Mr. Nott, of Cedar county, called on Judge Vermilye for license to marry Miss Taylor, daughter of Ira Taylor (before named). The judge, desirous of leaving a good impression of the seal, repaired to the corner of his cabin, and, placing the paper on the end of a log, with seal upon it, held in his fingers, while Mr. Nott, with a fence-rail uplifted, and with well directed blows, brought the end thundering against the seal like an old time battering ram against the gates of Jerusalem. Mr. Nott said he cared not if he knocked every knot out of the cabin, or a log endwise, for —

It was license or no wife,
So he pounded for life.
Rail thunder continued Nott.
Until impression was wrought.

Judge Vermilye was a most estimable man, whose heart was always brimfull of kindness and social feeling, which was lavished upon all around him, and rendered him a most popular and worthy citizen. He yet survives on the same farm near Toledo, where he first settled in Tama county, at the ripe age of 84, waiting the summons of "well done, good and faithful servant, it is enough, come up higher."

Dr. Daniels, on Wolf creek, I think, was the first physician in the county, and Dr. P. L. Baldy, of Chicago, was the first in Toledo. He stood at the head of his profession and had an extensive practice. His son, O. C. Baldy, is now a resident of Los Angeles, Cal., and a leading veterinary surgeon of the Pacific coast. Dr. P. L. Baldy was soon followed by his brother, Dr. Henry Baldy, who still continues in the practice of his profession at Toledo, with marked success.

In the winter of 1855-6, M. V. B. Kenton commenced the publication of a newspaper, the *Toledo Transcript* (if I mistake not). Kenton was wild, none too honest, and soon played out, skipped the country, and the paper passed into other hands. In September, 1856, I removed from Toledo to Sioux City, Woodbury county.

SOME REMARKABLE METEORS AND METEORIC FALLS.



GREAT advance has been made in the knowledge which we possess in regard to meteors and meteorites. This advance has taken place within the last few years. Many theories have been entertained to account for the fall from the air, of stones, and even masses of pure metallic iron.

The supernatural powers, volcanic explosive power acting from the center of the earth; the power of volcanoes supposed to be active in the moon, and even such power exerted by the sun,—all have been appealed to, and answered in the negative. At last diligent research, coupled with close observation, seems to have seized upon the key, which is to unlock and open out the mystery, that has so long enveloped the falling of stones and metal from the higher regions of the air.

Such falls occur in all parts of the earth, and have happened so frequently that, from what is recorded of them, it seems there is not a spot left so big as one's hand upon the surface of this great big earth of ours, but what has been hit by a falling meteorite. Indeed, it is thought by those capable of judging that there is yearly a constant addition to the weight and bigness of our earth from such falls, and it has been proven by actual experiment that there is a constant sifting down upon us of a very fine meteoric dust, the ashes and cinders of meteoric stones, which have been burned and thus reduced while on their way swiftly through the air and before they can reach the earth's surface.

Meteorites or meteoric stones fall at all times of the day and night. They have struck down the priest at the altar, the peasant in his cabin, and the rich man at his table. Hamlets and barns have been shattered by them, and palaces, public buildings, and churches have been demolished by their fall. Every one who has nightly glanced at the sky, has seen from time to

time points of light moving with greater or less swiftness in many different directions. These are falling stars or meteors, and their number per twenty-four hours is very great. It is known that these falling stars are only so many stones, large or small, which, while flying through space outside of our atmosphere, come in contact with the upper regions of the air, and, owing to their great velocity, which is some twenty miles per second, are heated redhot, and in a large number of cases, are burned. The air is also greatly heated in the track of the swiftly flying stone, and also the vapors thrown off. This gives out the beautiful band of light, called the "Tail of the Star."

It is a matter of observation that in the track of certain comets there seems to be travelling a great swarm of meteors, which, from time to time, come into contact with our air, and thus become evident as falling stars, and furthermore, certain of known comets have been seen to divide into two or more parts, and then in a course of years to disappear, while in their place there seems to be simply a shower of meteors, which are manifest at the time when the comet, of which they are supposed to have taken the place, should be seen in the sky. So then, the conclusion is, that meteoric showers are taking the place of some comets, and we know that the meteors of the shower consist in simply a shower of stones, large and small. It must not be believed for a moment but that stones are flying about, through all space in every conceivable direction, and without any connection with comets, just as we see dust motes circulating about in the air of our rooms when a sunbeam comes across them. These cosmic particles may truly be called the dust of the universe, and doubtless many of them also come in contact with our air and burn, or being massive enough, fall through it to the earth.

These falls are always accompanied by the manifestation of brilliant light, and great noises, also at times by the formation of very black and dense clouds at the point of greatest explosive force, and the track of the flying mass can be seen

in the sky, even in bright sun light at times, as a broad white mark or else a strip of many colors, generally red and green. The head of the meteoric flash is rounded at its front or advancing end, and is drawn out into a very long pear-shaped body, with the small end behind or following, and from this pointed end the tail begins. As a rule the meteoric body suffers an explosion at a short distance above the earth, generally at from five to ten miles. The force of this explosion scatters the flock of stones which are the cause of the display, and they, taking many directions away from what was before the line of flight, fall to the earth with but little or no further manifestations of the kind, which accompanied them on their direct course. It is the object of this paper to record the notable falls of meteoric stones in and near to this state, and also some of the most remarkable flights that have been seen from the regions round about us, which have come to my knowledge. The first remarkable fall of which I have any account, occurred on the twenty-fifth day of February, 1847, between the hours of two and three p. m. The day was bright and clear, at least so in the vicinity of the occurrence. I have my account of it from our late fellow citizen, Judge James Cavanagh, who, with two of his sons, was at the time cutting wood on the Cedar river, about nine or ten miles southeast of the place of the fall. One of the sons was Hon. Mathew Cavanagh, of this city. The Judge said that suddenly there came from the sky above and to the west of them, a rushing humming sound, mingled with a whistling as if thousands of bullets were flying through the air. The humming sound was very loud and impressive and rapidly increased to a roar, which seemed to shake the very earth, and all these sounds ceased suddenly in a series of tremendous explosions, which appeared to be northwest of where he stood, and as he thought might be Marion the county seat, all blown to pieces. The Judge thought that there were from four to seven distinct sharp explosions, fully seven he was inclined to say. After the explosions he noticed a

rattling rushing sound coming from the southwest, which continued for several seconds, when all the sounds ceased and he saw what he had not before noticed — a bunch of very black clouds close down to the horizon to the northwest of where he stood, and there were no other clouds in sight. Judge Cavanagh said that although he was not at all inclined to be superstitious, yet the affair made such an impression upon him that he and his sons quit their work and went home, where they found the household in great consternation and trouble at what had occurred. The neighborhood was in a turmoil about it, and some of the men set out to discover what had happened, and upon returning a day or two after, related that a stone had fallen on the high bluffs north of the Cedar river, in township 83 north, in range 6 west of the 5th principal meridian, at the time of the occurrence of the great explosions and other sounds described, and to this stone was given all the credit for producing them. The explosions were distinctly heard at Iowa City, twenty-two miles south from the place of the fall, and great was the alarm caused by them. I have no doubt but that this meteoric body travelled through the air in the direction from south to north, and that it passed directly over Iowa City. I heard the sounds (described by Cavanagh), but in a minor degree. It is from Judge Cavanagh and Dr. Ristine, of Cedar Rapids, that I gather all that I know about this great meteoric fall. I do not now remember how much the stone weighed, but think it was 80 to 100 pounds, and I believe that no other stones were found, at any rate I cannot discover that there was, but I believe that a great many more fell in the vicinity, which at the time was a wild district, having no inhabitants, and thus the chances for finding the stones which fell were small.

It is in my experience in such matters, that such great manifestations as accompanied this fall are the result of many masses, large and small, plunging through the air together or closely following each other in about the same

track. One small stone cannot get up such a disturbance of the air.

In the year 1852 a meteor descended in the northeastern heavens at about ten o'clock in the morning. It gave out no sounds, but only a bright flash, and it left a most brilliant trail or track behind it. I do not know that it was known to fall to the ground, but remember that many at the time believed that it fell into Lake Michigan. Passing over two or three of minor importance, I come to one seen by myself, my family, and neighbors. I was with my family visiting at the house of Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Somers, in Tama county in this staté. It was on the night of November 10th, 1862, and about ten o'clock. The room which we were in had a window in the south side and one in the west side. Suddenly, while we were in the midst of an animated conversation, several bright and quivering flashes of light came in at the south window, and the figure of the window itself was depicted upon the floor, just as if the sun was shining into it. The apparition of the window on the floor ran rapidly to the wall and disappeared, while at the same time the figure of the north window flashed upon the floor and ran rapidly out into the room. I hastened to the north window and there beheld in the sky, and traveling rapidly towards the northwest, a most beautiful meteor dazzling in its brightness, which, in one dire flash, instantly gave up its beauty and its motion, and disappeared.

In about two minutes after this, there came from the direction of where the meteor was last seen two or three heavy reports, as of a distant cannon, and succeeding this a hollow rumbling, which echoed and re-echoed in, and along the bluffs of Deer creek, and conveyed a most dismal impression to the mind. This meteor fell to the earth near to the northeast corner of Grundy county, in this state, and as far as I know but one small fragment of it was found. This I saw, and it had the usual black crust. The finder refused to part with it on any terms, and so it was lost to science. On the

evening of September 5th, 1872, at eight o'clock, while seated at my house, in this city, together with Mr. J. E. Blunt, civil engineer, we saw a meteor strike the air in a direction a little to the north of west from us at an altitude of about thirty degrees from the horizon, and watched it in its course, which took it in an almost due east direction, bearing a little to south of east, clear down to the horizon to the east of us. It seemed to move slowly, as compared with the motion of meteors, as generally seen, having apparently about half that velocity, and it made its way through the air with a very winding spiral motion. Its color was a dull red, and its time of flight nine seconds, in which time it described an arc of about one hundred degrees. The flight of this meteor was noted at Chicago, Cleveland, Boston, and New York, and it was seen to pass on out over the Atlantic ocean, and was believed to have made its way clear through the body of the atmosphere and not to have fallen to the earth. How very great must have been its power of motion to have enabled it to overcome both the attracting power of the earth and the great resistance of about six thousand miles of the atmosphere. I come now to the "Great Iowa County Fall" of 1875. This, the most magnificent display of the kind, which, in my belief, has occurred in the United States so far, happened at twenty minutes after ten o'clock P. M., on the night of February 12th of that year. As I have printed a very full description of this very remarkable occurrence, a copy of which is to be found in the library of the Iowa State Historical Society, I will only glance at it in this article.

The meteoric mass struck the air over the state of Missouri and had such direction of motion that it came to the earth in townships 80 and 81 north, in range 9 west of the fifth principal meridian, west and southwest of the town of Homestead and near to the villages of Amana and Hohe Amana, in Iowa county, Iowa. A very large number of stones fell, scattered over an area about three miles wide, east and west, and not less than seven miles long, north and south, or over a space of

about twenty-one square miles. These stones varied in size from that of a hickory-nut to one not less than two feet through it, or in weight from one-quarter of an ounce to seventy-eight pounds. They fell in a thickly settled district, but not a house or building of any kind was struck, nor was a man or beast injured by them.

It is to the kindness of Wm. and Fredrick Moershell, Dr. Fehr, and other individuals of the Amana colony, and to its president Mr. Winzenried, that I am indebted for many of the facts attendant upon this magnificent meteor and for many fragments of it. I give the readers of the RECORD the analysis of these stones, as made by Prof. G. Hinrichs of the State University:

IRON MAGNETIC.	Iron.	Nick- el.	Sul- phur.	Iron Oxide.	Mag- nesia.	Lime.	Silica.	Sum.
Iroilite,	1.1	...	0.7	(1.5)	...	...	...	1.8
Hyalosiderite,	...	...	...	15.2	17.5	0.6	19.6	52.9
Hypersthene,	...	...	...	8.8	9.7	2.2	44.2	44.9
Loss, traces,	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.4
Sum,	1.1	...	0.7	24.0	27.2	2.8	43.8	100.0
MAGNETIC.								
Nickeliferous Iron,	6.6	0.9	...	...	...	...	...	7.5
Total,	7.7	0.9	0.7	24.0	27.2	2.8	43.8	107.5

The fall of this mass of meteorites called the attention of scientific persons and of the curious from all parts of the world. I took great pains to survey the locality of the fall, and by the help of a large number of the residents, and in the vicinity, I find that there was picked up not less than 800 to 1,000 pounds of the stony materials which came down through the air with a velocity of about twenty-one miles per second on that frosty night, having force enough to bury themselves as much as four feet into the hard frozen ground.

I give Mr. J. A. Donnell's description of this great meteor as seen by himself and wife and published in the *Sigourney News*, from which paper I extract it. He says:

"Just as we passed the Methodist church (going westward) an instantaneous bright light, filling the whole heavens, shone about us, almost blinding us. This was followed by a quiver-

ing or shaking light, which continued for about two seconds. It seemed to be a combination of zig-zag and sheet lightning, the light being both vivid and diffuse. I stood still, instinctively looking upward—the clouds seemed to open, and for a moment I think I could distinctly see almost into the Seventh Heaven. A globe of fire with lines of pale light radiating therefrom appeared to be falling towards the earth from a point about 10° west of the zenith. I could see it drop through a succession of clouds until it came apparently inside of the dome above me, and then for a moment it stood apparently still, and flashed and sparkled like a firebrand. Within a second afterward it started through the atmosphere like a sky rocket, crossed the meridian in the direction of the North Star, and then continued its descent more slowly in the same line until it finally disappeared about 10° above the horizon at a point about 20° east of north.

To me it seemed like a ball of fire, white, clear and flashing, like the iron looks when it is first taken from the blacksmith's forge. It appeared to be hurled into space from the battlements of Heaven, and wandered as a host of Asteroids.

It swept, or rather burned its way through the sky with immense velocity, and left a train of pale, luminous light behind it, apparently fifty yards long. In size it seemed half as large as the full moon.

My approximate estimate of time from the first flash of light until it finally faded away is about eight seconds, and its visible path was not less than 90° . Of its magnitude or velocity I can say nothing, as I have not sufficient data to make an estimate.

We walked on about three blocks, in about three minutes, and suddenly at the identical point where the aerolite first appeared the most terrific explosion occurred I ever heard.

In the summer of 1863, while on the march from Cape Girardeau, Mo., to Little Rock, I heard a noise that sounded something like it. It was when the forces of the Union army had halted at Chalk Bluff, in their pursuit of Marmaduke, and

forty pieces of artillery were placed in position on the bluff and fired almost simultaneously at the forces beyond the river. The shot and shell passed over the tall timber of the bottom land, and the noise by that cannonade was distinctly heard at Bird's Point, forty miles away. The explosion of this meteorite was more terrific to me, and the reverberations longer, because of clouds, the hills and bluffs north of our city, and the stillness peculiar to night. The sight of the darting aerolite was enough for one mortal in one evening, and I never expect to see its equal, unless I live to see the "Heavens pass away as a scroll," but when the explosion followed from the same point I was frightened and couldn't help it. The noise continued from the point of the aerolite's first appearance in a direct line to where it disappeared, and seemed one continued peal after the first explosion."

On the evening of December 21st, 1876, at nine o'clock, a most brilliant meteor began its flight through the air over Kansas, about 200 miles west from Kansas City. It passed across Missouri with an increase of brilliancy and with many flashes as if of explosions. When flying across Illinois it gave out sounds. These, in general, were such as can be heard from large bodies passing swiftly through the air, but in tone and strength much louder and impressive than can be produced artificially. The meteor also at times in its flight over Illinois and Indiana gave out explosive sounds, and these explosions were accompanied by a fall from it of some of its substance. Pieces were seen to fall from it in a red-hot condition, just as coals and sparks might fall from a burning brand hurled through the air. In several instances these were picked up. They were of a kind of material in composition new to scientists, it being cellular and very porous in its structure, and the pores filled with a carbonaceous material resembling somewhat our crude petroleum or gas tar.

This meteor was seen to go out over the Atlantic ocean, and is supposed to have not fallen to the earth. It awakened

great interest from the wide spread view had of it in its flight, and from the fact it was of a kind quite new to science.

At sunrise on the 3d day of January, 1877, as Mr. Fred. Fieseler, of this city, was on his way along Dodge street (which runs north and south) to his work as printer in Mr. John P. Irish's office, he saw a meteor start from a point a little to the south and west of the zenith, and run a course sloping about fifteen degrees to the east from a perpendicular, and disappear in the horizon. It was very brilliant, and left a sharp, broad, white track behind it. This meteor was also seen by Mr. Edwin Rea, a friend of mine, who, having been with me on many railroad surveys, had learned how to observe such occurrences. He procured a compass and took the direction in which it disappeared, and sent me the observation. I took one here by Mr. Fieseler's help, and on putting the two directions down on a map, I found that the stone had fallen in the state of Missouri, not far from St. Charles, but before I had got these bearings, the stone was found by parties living in the vicinity. In falling it made but little commotion in the air, but gave out very brilliant flashes of light. The stone was secured by Mr. G. C. Broadhead of that state, who kindly sent me a fragment. It is very compact in texture, has but little iron in its composition, and is of a light grayish blue color. I cannot now find the analysis of it. I call this the *State Press* office fall, for the reason that Mr. Fieseler, who was then connected with that office, saw the fall, and so fully described it. Passing over a number of minor flashes, I come to the Estherville, Iowa, fall. I was at the time of this fall going from Tracy, Minnesota, to my party of engineers, then camped at Mr. Ham's, at Lake Yankton. It was about 4 P. M. May 10th, 1879, a very severe storm of rain, accompanied by thunder and lightning and heavy wind, was coming up from the northwest. The cloud was very dense, and had a perfectly straight advancing edge, which ranged perfectly true from southwest to northeast as it came up to my zenith. It was so peculiar, and furthermore so very

straight and true on the advancing edge, that I told the man who drove the team to stop and I would watch it. So we stood admiring the cloud until it had passed the zenith, moving towards the southeast about twenty or twenty-five degrees, when suddenly there came a red mark on the cloud, a straight bright red mark, at about twenty degrees to the southwest of the zenith, and as much as thirty degrees towards the west from that point, and as the mark came up to the direction southwest from me, a brilliant white ball of fire, which seemed to boil intensely, flashed out from the end of the red mark and carrying along the mist of the cloud with it, which was drawn out into a trumpet shaped tube, the meteor passed on under the cloud, and beyond to the bright sky, and lost itself in the horizon. That was the great Estherville meteor, which fell close to a school house and buried itself in the earth several feet. It has a history which I have not time to hunt up.

On the evening of July 25th, 1881, while I was seated in front of the hotel in the village of Minneota, Minnesota, in company with several friends, we saw a beautiful meteor rise from the horizon exactly in the southeast, and reaching our zenith pass over our heads and pursue a course exactly northwest, falling apparently from the zenith, as it had risen to it, much as one sees a rocket rise into the air and then fall again to the earth. This meteor was seen all over northeastern Iowa, northern Illinois, and over a large part of Wisconsin. It was also seen from all parts of Minnesota and northern Dakota. As it approached the Missouri river and at the point of crossing over that stream, it gave out the usual sounds of such bodies flying through the air, and soon began to explode. At each explosion it gave out a small black cloud, leaving a row of such clouds behind it, which were to be seen for nearly an hour after the meteor had passed. At its final extinguishment, it passed over head to a steamboat load of excursionists who were enjoying the evening with the boat tied to the bank of the Yellowstone river in Montana. The

final explosion occurred in the exact zenith to these people, and their account of it speaks of the consternation caused by the shock and sounds.

They had seen it coming apparently down upon them, giving out its continual flash of quivering light, and also firing as it were great guns at them in pretty regular succession, and leaving a great train of black smoke in its path as does a locomotive at times when just freshly fired up with coal. It was conceded by all on board of the boat that the meteor burst into fragments and fell to the ground not very far from them, but a search the next day failed to discover any of the mass. It was in a wild uninhabited spot. I have in my possession several letters describing this scene, and many articles clipped from the newspapers also showing it to have been a not inconsiderable display.

Having noted the most remarkable meteors and meteoric falls which have been seen from this state and in its neighborhood, I now will close by referring to meteoric showers. These occur periodically with a very regular interval between each visitation, so that their return can be expected with all the certainty which attends the coming and going of any other astronomical event. The months of April, August and November seem to be the most prolific of such showers.

One of these showers returns every thirty-three and one-third years, two or three occur each year, and it is supposed that some new ones are about to be added to the list.

I have observed in years past that a shower seems to strike the air in the direction of the constellation or cluster of stars, called the Dolphin, or rather a little below that cluster, when it bears about southeast from the observer. The maximum of that shower I should place in the year 1876. I think that I have given an account of the most remarkable meteors and meteoric falls to be noted since the settlement of Iowa began, and have done so that they may be of record.

C. W. IRISH,

Civil Engineer.

SUEL FOSTER.



ON. SUEL FOSTER, whose death, at the ripe age of more than seventy years, occurred in Muscatine on the 21st inst., was one of the advance guard of civilization in our state. He was one of the first of the early pioneers, being the second white settler in Muscatine county, and his settlement here dated back well into the "thirties," when Poweshiek, Blackhawk, and their red skinned subjects were still the occupants of our prairies.

Mr. Foster was a native of New Hampshire, and he possessed all the sterling virtues of the best citizens of that rugged state.

He was active in the organization of the State Horticultural Society, and during the twenty years of its past existence, with the exception of one or two years, has held some office therein, having been its vice-president, president and one of the board of directors, and only the day before his death was elected as his own successor to the directorship for the ensuing two years.

The finger marks of his labors as a promoter of fruit and forest tree growing are visible in every part of the state, and in regard to the most suitable sorts for farmers to plant in his locality, he has been considered an oracle for the last forty years.

Always an advocate of industrial education, he was one of the first to advocate the establishment of the Agricultural College, and he was for years one of its trustees.

He was a distinguished member of the American Forestry Association, and was a constant and valued contributor to the press on this subject and its cognate topic, horticulture. He was equally far sighted and sagacious in other directions; was one of the early advocates of the state control of railroads, and a ruling spirit in the Grange during its palmy days. Among the citizens of Muscatine he was an active and leading

prohibitionist, and in religious work he was constant, ardent, and zealous.

He leaves no children, his only daughter having died several years ago.

To the members of the State Horticultural Society he was a father and an elder brother, and such was the esteem in which he was held by them, that at their annual meeting, which was in session at the time of his death, and at which were read two original papers prepared by him, five members were selected to attend his funeral in person.

Such is the brief record of a pioneer, whose influence for good in the development of Iowa it would be difficult to estimate at its true value.

H. W. LATHROP.

DONATIONS TO THE IOWA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.—LIBRARY.

From Chicago Historical Society,

In Memoriam—John S. Wright. An address delivered before the society, July, 1885.

From Department of State, Washington, D. C.,

Report from the Consuls, No. 54.

From Wisconsin Historical Society,

Twenty-ninth, 30th and 31st Annual Reports.

From New England Historic and Genealogical Society,

Register No. CLVI., 1885.

From Department of Interior, Washington, D. C.,

Journals of 48th Congress, 2d Session, 2 Vols.

From Dr. Sam'l A. Green, Boston,

Suffolk Deeds, Vol. 3.

Thirteenth Annual Report Board of Health of Boston.

Extracts from a Diary of Hon. Jonathan Mason of a Journey from Boston to Savannah.

Memorial of the Trustees of the Peabody Education Fund.

Memoir of Nathaniel Thayer, A.M., by Geo. E. Ellis.

Howard Quinquennial Catalogue, 1880.

From Gen. W. W. Belknap, Washington, D. C.,

Journal of a Tour from Boston to Oneida, June, 1796, by
Jeremy Belknap.

New Windsor Centennial, June, 1883.

First Annual Meeting of the Historical Society of New-
burgh Bay and the Highlands, July 22d, 1884.

From Gen. W. B. Hazen, Washington, D. C.,

Monthly Weather Review for August, September, October.

From New England Historic and Genealogical Society,

Genealogical Gleanings in England, No. 10.

Genealogical Gleanings, Vol. 1, part 1.

From Library Company, Philadelphia,

Bulletin of the Company for July, 1885.

From Publishers, Cleveland, Ohio,

Magazine of Western History for October.

From Department of State, Washington,

"Trade Guilds of Europe."

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From Gen. C. W. Darling, Utica, New York,

Dedication of the Oriskany Monument, August 6th, 1884.

From Essex Institute, Salem, Mass.,

Historical Collections, January, February and March, 1885.

From Historical Society of Pennsylvania,

The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, No.
3 of Vol. IX., October, 1885.

From the Society of the Army of the Cumberland,

Proceedings of the Sixteenth Reunion, held at Rochester,
New York, 1884.

From Northwestern Branch National Home, Disabled Soldiers,

Annual Report,

From the Shakers, Union Village, New Hampshire,

The Manifesto for October, November and December.

From United States Catholic Historical Society, New York,

Proceedings of the first Public Meeting of the Society.

From Canadian Institute, Toronto, Canada,

Transactions of the Society.

From Mexican Consul, Washington, D. C.,

Juarez and Cesar Canta.

From Nautical Almanac Office, Washington, D. C.,

Astronomical Papers, Vol. II., parts 3 and 4.

From American Geographical Society, New York,

Bulletin of Society, No. 1, of 1885.

From De Wolfe, Frisk & Co., Boston,

Catalogue of Books, 1885 and 1886.

From American Antiquarian Society, Worcester, Mass.,

Index to Proceedings of Vol. III., New Series.

From Old Colony Historical Society, Taunton, Mass.,

Collections of Society, No. 3.

From S. C. & S. M. Gould, Manchester, N. H.,

Miscellaneous Notes and Queries, with Answers, Nos. 1
and 42.

From Patent Office, Washington, D. C.,

Official Gazette as published.

From Bureau of Education, Washington, D. C.,

Historical Sketches of the Universities and Colleges of the
United States.

From Estes & Lauriat, Boston,

Seventh Annual Catalogue, 1885 and 1886.

From Yale College,

Catalogue of the Officers and Students, 1885 and 1886.

From Chas. Scribner's Sons, New York,

The Book Buyer — Christmas Edition.

From Geo. W. Lane, Esq., Santa Fe, New Mexico,

"Aztlán," by Hon. Wm. G. Pitch.

From Mrs. S. B. Maxwell, State Librarian,

Biennial Report for 1885.

From Publishers, Chicago,

American Antiquarian, for November, 1885.

From Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore,

The City of Washington, its Organization and Administrations, by John Addison Porter.

From University of California, Berkeley,

Annual Report Board of Regents.

From Rev. C. D. Bradlee, Boston,

Five Pamphlets.

From United States Coast and Geodetic Survey Office,

Report of Superintendent for 1884.

From Dr. J. Berrien Lindsley, Secretary, Nashville, Tenn.,

Second Annual Report State Board of Health.

From Gen. W. F. Vilas, Washington, D. C.,

Annual Report of the Postmaster-General for 1885.

From R. S. Weeks, Newark, N. J.,

Genealogy of the Family of Geo. Weeks, of Dorchester, Mass., 1635-1650.

From Nebraska Historical Society, Lincoln, Neb.,

First Annual Report of the Society.

From Secretary of State, Des Moines, Iowa,

Twenty Copies Supreme Court Reports, Vol. 64.

OBITUARY.



CAPT. SCRIBES HARRIS, one of the oldest residents of Iowa, died at Dubuque last Christmas, aged 76 years. Capt. Harris settled at Dubuque in 1846, and was an old river captain, having commanded the steamer St. Paul, the first packet that plied on the head waters of the Mississippi to St. Paul, in 1835, and also the first steamer that navigated the Wisconsin river. He had accumulated a fortune, and was one of the directors of the First National Bank of Dubuque. He was also the inventor of a torpedo, which at one time engaged the attention of the government.

WILLIAM JOSHUA BARNEY, son of Capt. Barney, U. S. Army, and grand-son of Commodore Barney, of revolutionary fame, died at New York January 5th, 1886, aged 62 years. He was assistant to his father in laying out the first government road in Iowa when it was a territory.

IOWA EDITORS.



OF THOSE editing Iowa newspapers, just before the rebellion, who are still so employed, are the Messrs. Baily, father and son, of the Decorah *Republican*, Swigart of the Maquoketa *Sentinel*, Junkin of the Fairfield *Ledger*, John Mahin of the Muscatine *Journal*, and E. Booth of the Anamosa *Eureka*. The Burlington *Hawkeye* was then published by the late Clark Dunham, and the Davenport *Gazette* by the late Alfred Sanders and his brother, Col. Add. H. Sanders—the little hero of the 16th Iowa. John Tisdale, who died some ten years ago, was the first editor of the Des Moines *Register*. Dubuque had several dailies—the *Express*, edited by Horr, and the *North-West* by Heath, both suspended, and the *Times* by Jesse Clement. Jacob Rich was editor of the Independence *Guardian*. William Duane Wilson was the pioneer agricultural editor of Iowa. Gov. Gue edited a paper at Fort Dodge, Chas. Aldrich one at Webster City, and A. B. F. Hildreth one at Charles City. E. M. Chapin was one of the early Marshall county editors. The Cedar Rapids *Times* was conducted by Davenport and Walker, and the Marion *Register* by Robert Holmes, who died about a year ago. C. Tarbox Smeed edited a paper at Waverly, and Thomas Drummond, afterwards a captain in the regular army, who was killed during the war, one at Vinton. R. H. Sylvester, now of the Washington, D. C., *Post*, was the editor of the *State Press*; Geo. H. Jerome, who died at Niles, Michigan, in 1885, and L. A. Duncan, present editor of the Niles, Michigan, *Republican*, editors of the Iowa City *Republican*; L. D.

Ingersoll (Linkensale), who died in Colorado in 1879, edited the Iowa City *Capitol Reporter*, and Matt. Parrott, present senior editor of the Waterloo *Reporter*, to whose paper may be attributed many of the statements here made, was then one of the editors of the *Eureka* at Anamosa.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

SCATTERED all over the valleys of the Gila, the Salt, and other rivers of Arizona are found the ruins of ancient dwellings, and the traces of large irrigating canals, showing that every available acre was utilized by the inhabitants. Mr. Tritle, in his last report to the government, before relinquishing the office of Governor of Arizona, refers to these monuments of an extinct race, as mysterious, three hundred and fifty years ago, when first found by the Spaniards, as now, and assumes that the prehistoric farmers of that region stored the superfluous waters of the rainy season by a system of dams and reservoirs, traces of which are still visible, for use in the times of drought.

THE phototype establishment of F. Gutekunst was destroyed in Philadelphia January 26th, with a loss of \$15,000. Mr. Gutekunst made the phototype portraits of Governors Briggs and Hempstead, which have appeared in the RECORD.

THROUGHOUT Yucatan are found the remains of ruined temples, palaces and cities, mute witnesses of the former existence of a forgotten people. On these crumbling walls are frequently found hieroglyphic inscriptions, heretofore unintelligible to modern antiquarian scholars. Lately, however, Dr. DePlongeon, who has spent many years in archaeological research, and has made molds of these inscriptions, which have been brought to New York, claims to have discovered a key to decipher these messages from a prehistoric race.

THE diary of Gov. A. H. Reeder, who, in May, 1856, was compelled to flee from Kansas on account of the border troubles, giving an account of his escape, was lately read before the State Historical Society of Kansas. After reaching Kansas City from Lawrence, which latter place was sacked soon after he left it, he shaved off his beard, and, disguised as a wood-chopper, floated after night in a skiff down the Missouri to Randolph Point, and there hailed a steamer, which took him to Alton, Illinois.

IN TAKING leave of the army of the Potomac in November, 1862, Gen. McClellan rode along the front of his army, drawn up to salute him for the last time. His eye caught the tattered colors of the 15th Massachusetts. He checked his horse, wheeled, returned, and saluted the torn flag by slowly raising his cap. The cheers which acknowledged the courtesy revealed the secret of McClellan's popularity with his army.

THE "Proceedings of Crocker's Iowa Brigade, at the Third Reunion, held at Iowa City September 23d and 24th, 1885," has been issued from the press of the Iowa City Republican Publishing Company, in a neat pamphlet of 127 pages, embellished with an excellent portrait of the president of the society, the genial, gallant and accomplished general, W. W. Belknap. It contains a history of all that transpired at the reunion—the speeches, addresses and orations, the songs, sentiments and responses, and all the names of members of the society, honorary and active, and has more entertaining reading than many a novel. Capt. John H. Munroe, of the 11th Iowa, one of the bravest and best of that heroic regiment, is the editor and compiler of the pamphlet, and has done his work in most excellent taste.

THE Blackhawk Purchase of 1832 embraced a part of what is now Johnson county. The treaty specified as one of the metes in its western boundary a line from Rock Island to the nearest place on the Cedar river, a point about ten miles southeast of what is now the northeast corner of Johnson county.



W. W. Chapman.